

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 9, 11, 12 and 16 have been amended. Claims 3, 6-8, 15 and 19 have been canceled. No claims have been added.

In the present Office Action, claims 20-25 stand allowed. Claims 8, 9, 15 and 19 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were deemed to recite allowable subject matter. Claims 1-7, 10-14 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious based on U.S. Patent no. 4,646,006 of Schweitzer ("Schweitzer").

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 3, 6, 7 and 8 (objected to; now canceled). Independent claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 15 (objected to; now canceled). Independent claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 19 (objected to; now canceled). Accordingly, the prior art rejection is believed to be moot.

Therefore, all of the pending claims are believed to be patentable over the cited art for the foregoing reasons.

Dependent Claims

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicants' silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.

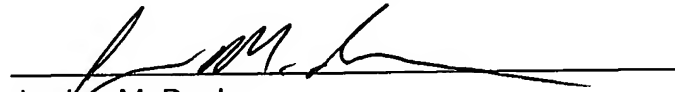
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

If there are any additional charges/credits, please charge/credit our deposit account no. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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